

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stroking ball-type constant velocity joint comprising:

an inner joint member having a longitudinal axis centered with respect to said inner joint member and an outer surface defining a plurality of radially outwardly facing longitudinal grooves in combination with a plurality of radially outwardly facing substantially helical grooves, wherein each helical groove is disposed in mirrored rotational relation with a corresponding helical groove disposed on an opposite side of said longitudinal axis.

2. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves extends in mirrored relation to at least one other groove.

3. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein four grooves of the said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves extend parallel to one another.

4. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein each of said substantially helical grooves extends between two of said substantially longitudinal grooves.

5. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein said substantially helical grooves and said substantially longitudinal grooves are disposed in alternating relation along said outer surface of said inner joint member.

6. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves include at least three grooves extending in different directions with respect to one another along said outer surface.

7. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 6 wherein each of said three grooves extends in mirrored relation to at least one other groove.

8. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein a first helical groove extends between second and third helical grooves extending in opposite rotational relation to said first helical groove.

9. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves includes eight grooves.

10. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of balls individually disposed in and movable along said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves; and

a cage surrounding said inner joint member and defining a plurality of windows wherein each of said plurality of balls individually pierces one of said plurality of windows, said plurality of windows including short windows adjacent said substantially longitudinal grooves and long windows adjacent said substantially helical grooves.

11. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 10 wherein said inner joint member includes a first end and a second end and said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves extend from said first end to said second end and include four substantially longitudinal grooves disposed along said outer surface ninety degrees from one another and four substantially helical grooves individually disposed along said outer surface between two of said four substantially longitudinal grooves and wherein each of said substantially helical grooves extends in opposite relation to two adjacent helical grooves.

12. (Currently amended) A stroking ball-type constant velocity joint comprising:

an inner joint member having a longitudinal axis centered with respect to said inner joint member and a first end and a second end and an outer surface defining a plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves extending from said first end to said second end including four substantially longitudinal grooves disposed along said outer surface ninety degrees from one another and four substantially helical grooves individually

disposed along said outer surface between two of said four substantially longitudinal grooves disposed on an opposite side of said longitudinal axis;

a plurality of balls individually disposed in and movable along said plurality of radially outwardly facing grooves;

a cage surrounding said inner joint member and defining a plurality of windows wherein each of said plurality of balls individually pierces one of said plurality of windows, said plurality of windows including short windows adjacent said substantially longitudinal grooves and long windows adjacent said substantially helical grooves; and

an outer joint member surrounding said cage and having a third end and a fourth end and an inner surface defining a plurality of radially inwardly facing grooves extending from said third end to said fourth end including four substantially longitudinal grooves disposed along said inner surface ninety degrees from one another and four substantially helical grooves individually disposed along said inner surface between two of said four substantially longitudinal grooves and wherein said plurality of outwardly facing grooves of said inner joint member cooperate with said plurality of inwardly facing grooves of said outer joint member forming a plurality of passages guiding movement of said plurality of balls.

13. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 12 wherein said substantially helical grooves and said substantially longitudinal grooves are disposed in alternating relation along said outer surface of said inner joint member.

14. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 12 wherein each of said helical grooves of said inner joint member and each of said helical grooves of said outer joint member extends in opposite relation to two adjacent helical grooves.

15. (Original) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 12 wherein at least one of said plurality of passages is defined by a first helical groove of said inner joint member and a second helical groove of said outer joint member wherein said first and second helical grooves extend in opposite rotational relation to one another.

16. (New) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 9 wherein said inner joint member is further defined as having four longitudinal grooves spaced substantially ninety degrees apart from one another about said centered longitudinal axis.

17. (New) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 16 wherein said plurality of radially outwardly facing substantially helical grooves is further defined as including two right-hand helical grooves spaced substantially one hundred and eighty degrees apart from one another about said centered longitudinal axis.

18. (New) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 17 wherein said plurality of radially outwardly facing substantially helical grooves is further defined as including two left-hand helical grooves spaced substantially one hundred and eighty degrees apart from one another about said centered longitudinal axis.

19. (New) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 18 wherein each of said two left-hand helical grooves is spaced substantially ninety degrees apart from each of said two right-hand grooves about said centered longitudinal axis.

20. (New) The stroking ball-type constant velocity joint of claim 1 wherein said plurality of radially outwardly facing substantially helical grooves is further defined as including the same number of left-hand grooves and right-hand grooves.